

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
WESTERN DIVISION

CARL D. SIMPSON AND BONNIE REED  
SIMPSON, CO-ADMINISTRATORS OF  
THE ESTATE OF CARL D. SIMPSON,

ORIGINAL

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Case No. C-1-00014

INTERMET CORPORATION, ET AL.,

Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS STAPLETON

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The deposition of Thomas Stapleton, was taken on  
July 14, 2003, at the approximate hour of 9:30 a.m., at 215  
South Fourth Street, Ironton, Ohio.

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ELITE COURT REPORTING  
5010 Dempsey Drive  
Cross Lanes, West Virginia 25313  
(304) 776-0975

BRANDY D. MOWERY



Appearances:

Mr. Lawrence J. Barty, Esq.  
Taft, Stettinius & Hollister  
188 First Tower  
4525 Walnut Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Mr. D. Scott Bowling, Esq.  
Mr. Randall Lambert, Esq.  
Lambert, McWhorter & Bowling  
Post Office Box 725  
Ironton, OH 45638

Ms. Caroline E. Diwit, Esq.  
Lane, Alton & Horst  
175 South Third Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Ms. Nancy J. Bride, Esq.  
Greenbaum, Doll & McDonald  
2800 Chemed Center  
255 East Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Also present: Bonnie Reed Simpson

INDEX

<u>WITNESS</u>	<u>EXAMINATION</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
Mr. Stapleton	Mr. Barty	03
	Ms. Bride	45
	Ms. Diwit	60
	Mr. Bowling	63
	Mr. Barty	71
	Ms. Bride	76
	Mr. Bowling	78
<u>EXHIBITS</u>		<u>PAGE NO.</u>
Exhibit No. 1		28
Exhibit No. 2		65

Reporter's Certification - 81  
Errata Sheet/Signature Page - Attached



1 Q. Did you ever receive any kind of formal  
2 discipline while you were an employee for misconduct or for  
3 job performance?

4 A. No. I got wrote up for coming in late two or  
5 three times, but that's about it.

6 Q. Once again, did any supervisor or manager of the  
7 company ever tell you to remove stickers without going  
8 through the lock out process?

9 A. No, they never...

10 Q. Did you ever have a discussion with other  
11 employees about whether or not you should bother to lock  
12 it? Was that ever a topic that was discussed?

13 A. No.

14 Q. You said, from time to time, if you thought you  
15 could reach a sticker, you'd use a long screwdriver and put  
16 your hand or arm into the machine.

17 A. Just my hand. If it was to where my hand  
18 actually had to go back in between the pattern, no, I  
19 wouldn't.

20 Q. Your judgement was that if you went in that far,  
21 you could pull back if the machine started to move?

22 A. Right.

23 Q. Did any manager or supervisor -- are you aware  
24 that they observed you doing that?



1 accident?

2 A. Paul Kelly.

3 Q. Did Mr. Kelly work with you often as a helper?

4 A. Yes. He was my regular helper. As a matter of  
5 fact, he's my brother-in-law.

6 Q. Your recently acquired brother-in-law?

7 A. No. He's been married...

8 Q. Were you observing Mr. Simpson at the moment the  
9 accident occurred?

10 A. I had my back turned at the time.

11 Q. Tell me, if you can, what Mr. Simpson was doing  
12 the last time you observed him, prior to the accident.

13 A. He was leaning back in the machine, knocking the  
14 sticker out.

15 Q. Where was Mr. Brammer at that time? Did you  
16 notice?

17 A. He was standing out by the control panel.

18 Q. I gather you turned your back to your control  
19 panel?

20 A. Yeah. I turned my back -- like this machine,  
21 B-1, it also had a glue press. All right. I turned my  
22 back to put my mold in the glue press. Paul Kelly, my  
23 helper, his back was turned also.

24 Q. You were both working on your glue press?